

Application No. 09/152,992
Amendment dated May 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nipple cover for covering a portion of a human breast without using a brassiere, said nipple cover comprising an outer shell of a flexible material and being formed substantially in the shape of a hollow curved surface and having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein said outer surface is substantially smooth, and wherein said inner surface of the shell is a substantially continuous curve for smoothly receiving a human breast and for smoothly receiving a nipple of the human breast, and is adapted for receiving an adhesive for connecting said nipple cover to a human body, and wherein the shell of the nipple cover has a first thickness proximate a center thereof for concealing a nipple shape, which first thickness is greater than a second thickness at and around a periphery thereof for blending with a breast surface, the shell of the nipple cover gradually tapering in thickness from the first thickness to the second thickness for smoothly blending with a breast surface, and wherein a curvature of the outer surface of the shell is a substantially smooth continuous one directional curvature from the center to the periphery thereof and the shell having a shape of substantially a hollow hemisphere.

2. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein ~~said nipple cover is~~ manufactured from a flexible plastic material the shell of the nipple cover consists essentially of the flexible material.

3. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the shell of said nipple cover ~~has the shape of a hollow hemisphere~~ is of a size configured to be substantially larger than a woman's nipple and areola.

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4. (Currently amended) The device of claim 3 wherein said nipple cover is of a size configured for covering at least about one half of a woman's breast and less than the whole breast.
5. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising an absorbent pad disposed on said inner surface of said ~~cover~~ shell.
6. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of holes disposed through said ~~cover~~ shell.
7. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second thickness at the periphery is substantially less than one half of the first thickness proximate the center.
8. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said device is reusable and has adhesive which may be removed after each use of said cover.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Previously presented) A method of covering a nipple on a human breast, the nipple cover having a center and comprising a flexible material for conforming to a human breast,